

We Claim:

Subt A1 B1 C1 5
1. A method of treating a kidney disease comprising administering an effective amount of a soyasaponin B_b to an animal in need thereof.

2. A method according to claim 1 wherein the kidney disease is polycystic kidney disease.

10 3. A method according to claim 2 further comprising administering an effective amount of soyasaponin B_a and/or soyasaponin B_c.

B1 C1 11 4. A method according to claim 1 wherein the soyasaponin B_b is given in an amount from about 1 to about 10 g/day.

Subt A2 15 5. A pharmaceutical composition for use in treating a kidney disease comprising an effective amount of a soyasaponin B_b in admixture with a suitable diluent or carrier.

20 6. A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 5 further including soyasaponin B_a and/or soyasaponin B_c.

Subt A3 25 7. A nutraceutical composition for use in treating a kidney disease comprising an effective amount of a soyasaponin B_b in admixture with a suitable diluent or carrier.

8. A nutraceutical composition according to claim 7 further including soyasaponin B_a and/or soyasaponin B_c.

Subt A4 B1 C1 30 9. A method of isolating soyasaponin B_b from a sample comprising:
(a) solubilizing the sample in acidified aqueous alcohol;
(b) removing polar lipids by liquid chromatography;

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- (a) solubilizing the sample in acidified aqueous alcohol;
- (b) removing polar lipids by liquid chromatography;

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B1
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- (c) solubilizing the sample from (b) in aqueous alcohol;
(d) passing the sample from (c) through an anion exchange column;
(e) eluting the sample absorbed to column in (d) with an acidified aqueous alcohol; and
5 (f) purifying the sample from (e) by liquid chromatography and collecting fractions containing soyasaponin B_b.

17. A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 5 wherein the soyasaponin B_b is obtained by a method comprising:

- 10 (a) solubilizing the sample in acidified aqueous alcohol;
(b) removing polar lipids by liquid chromatography;
(c) solubilizing the sample from (b) in aqueous alcohol;
(d) passing the sample from (c) through an anion exchange column;
(e) eluting the sample absorbed to column in (d) with an acidified
15 aqueous alcohol; and
(f) purifying the sample from (e) by liquid chromatography and collecting fractions containing soyasaponin B_b.

18. A nutraceutical composition according to claim 7 wherein the soyasaponin B_b is obtained by a method comprising:

- 20 (a) solubilizing the sample in acidified aqueous alcohol;
(b) removing polar lipids by liquid chromatography;
(c) solubilizing the sample from (b) in aqueous alcohol;
(d) passing the sample from (c) through an anion exchange column;
25 (e) eluting the sample absorbed to column in (d) with an acidified aqueous alcohol; and
(f) purifying the sample from (e) by liquid chromatography and collecting fractions containing soyasaponin B_b.

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add
A7

add
B1

add
C1